

10 angle and an arcuate final electrical contact engaging  
11 surface portion;  
12 and,  
13 web means for connecting at least two of said plurality of  
14 electrical contacts together in spaced apart relation.

Q5 1 18. The electrical contact assembly of claim 17 wherein said web means connects  
2 said at least two rigid genderless electrical contacts together at the  
3 intermediate portions thereof.

1 19. The electrical contact assembly of claim 17 wherein said web means  
2 is integrally formed with said at least two rigid genderless electrical  
3 connectors.

Cancel without prejudice Claims 21 and 22.

#### REMARKS

The Office Action and cited art have been carefully considered. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled in view of the above claim amendments.

The remaining claims have been amended to specify that the electrical contact is "rigid". This language tracks the recitation of U.S. Patent No. 3,259,870 cited in the Specification at pages 3 and 4. In addition the claims have been amended to state that the "distal end terminates in a planar electrical contact engaging surface". In view of this amendment, Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled.

Turning now to the art cited by the Examiner, none of the art addresses the problems associated with "hot plugging" electrical connectors. See Specification page 2. The Brown, Dean and Harting patents all employ a flexible spring contact that does not terminate in a planar electrical contact engaging surface nor do

they disclose the positional maintenance of the initial and final electrical contact engaging surface portions of Applicants' connector. The patent to Wyatt and the Japanese patent only show a rigid contact without any planar electrical contact engaging surface. The Walker patent is not believed be relevant because tongues B-B are non-metallic.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJB", is written over a horizontal line.

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